REMARKS

1. Status of Claims

Claims 1-11 are in the application. Claims 1 and 2 are amended; Claims 3-7 are withdrawn from consideration; Claims 8-11 are added.

As the Examiner states in the Restriction Requirement, claims 1 and 2 have separate utility from the remaining claims for use in analyzing and designing timing paths. The analysis and design can be performed separately from implementation of the design. For this reason, Claim 1 has been amended to remove the implementation steps including "connecting said signal driver to a first end of said interconnection path" and "connecting said transmission line to a second end of said interconnection path" to newly added dependent claim 8. Claim 2 has been amended to correct an antecedent basis problem, replacing the term "resistance" in line 5 of claim 2 with the term --impedance--, which has antecedent basis in line 2 of claim 1. Claim 9 was added to depend from Claim 2 to also cover implementation steps.

Claims 10 and 11 are added to cover an integrated circuit made by the process of Claims 1-2 and 8-9. Support for this amendment may be found in FIGS. 4C-4E and 5A-5B and in the specification at least at page 9, line 23 through page 11, line 14.

2. Response to Restriction Requirement

In the Office Action mailed 10/06/2003, a restriction requirement was made to one of the following inventions: Group I, Claims 1-2, drawn to a method for controlling slew rate, classified in class 716, subclass 6; Group II, Claims 3-4, drawn to an integrated circuit, classified in class 716, subclass 1; and Group III, Claims 5-7, drawn to a method of mapping a signal driver to a pad, classified in class 716, subclass 13. **Applicant hereby elects Group I (claims 1-2)** for further prosecution. Claims 3-7 are hereby withdrawn from consideration.

As previously stated, Claims 10 and 11, drawn to an integrated circuit made by the process of Claims 1 and 2, have been added. The Applicant

respectfully submits that Claims 1 and 2, and newly added claims 10 and 11 are related as process and product produced by the process. Both process claims 1-2 and product claims 10-11 include similar limitations.

In particular, Claim 10 recites that "said redistribution metal selected to be characterized by a redistribution metal characteristic capacitance that is determined by calculating said redistribution metal characteristic capacitance which together with said signal driver output impedance will produce a resulting time constant on said transmission line to achieve a desired slew rate on said transmission line when said signal transitions from a first state to a second state". These are essentially the same steps recited in Claim 1.

In addition, claims 1-2, 8-9 and 10-11 are linked by a single inventive concept, namely the use of inherent parasitic capacitance of redistribution metal to control the slew rate of signals on integrated circuit transmission lines. It would seem that a search encompassing this inventive concept would completely overlap subclasses and patents which include the process of analyzing characteristic capacitance of redistribution metal for use in determining interconnect characteristics in integrated circuits and actual integrated circuit devices that would contain such redistribution metal with these desired characteristics. Thus, searching subclasses of methods to control slew rates (subclass 6) and their resulting integrated circuit products (subclass 1) would not constitute an undue burden on the Examiner in this case. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that newly added Claims 10-11 should not be subject to a restriction requirement.

Conclusion

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this amendment, or should the Examiner believe that it would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned directly.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jessica Costa

Jessica Costa, Reg. No. 41,065

The Law Offices of Jessica Costa, *PC*
501 Collings Avenue
Collingswood, New Jersey 08107
Tel.: (856) 854-3999
Fax: (856) 858-2167